



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

vices and method of these monks would necessarily produce the ruin of studies so indispensable. The university of Coimbra in a body formed an opposition in 1555,—fifteen years after the Jesuits had been introduced into Portugal,—to deliver to the Jesuits the college of Philosophy. At the congress of the deputies of all the cities of this kingdom, which was convoked by the king in 1562, the people presented the most lively complaints of the great fortunes which these same monks had already acquired in the twenty-two years they had been in the kingdom, and against the corrupt studies which were cultivated among them. The nobility and people of Portugal united on the 22d of November 1630, to form a deliberation against the schools which these monks had opened that year,—enacting grievous penalties against all those who should go, or who should send their children to study in those schools.

It is remarkable, that it was in 1555 that the university of Coimbra augured so ill of the Jesuits ;—precisely at the time when the faculty of theology in Paris pronounced, by their decree of the 1st of December 1554, that the society appeared to be born rather for destruction than for edification. The gentlemen of the law in the king's service have many times presented to the parliaments of France the judgment of the faculty of theology, as a prophecy already accomplished.

The king of Portugal gives to his subjects the judgment of the university of Coimbra, as a prediction. Events have verified the prophecy made about the same time by the archbishop of Dublin in Ireland. Indeed, as we have seen, the learned Melchior Cano had before predicted that a time would come when the kings would resist the Jesuits and would not find means effectually to do it.

Extract from a letter addressed to the Editor, on the importance of an Observatory at Cambridge.

It has long been considered as very desirable to have an Observatory at Cambridge, connected with the University. It was a favorite object with our late Presidents, and some steps were taken by them towards having one erected. Many new offices have since been created, and the system of instruction much enlarged, so that the want of such an establishment is still more apparent and more sensibly felt.

An Observatory has long been considered by enlightened nations, as one of the noblest objects that can claim the patronage of the public or of individuals. In Great Britain and Ireland,—beside the great national Observatory at Greenwich, and two others endowed by the King,—there is one belonging to each of the Universities and about twenty in the possession of noblemen and private gentlemen. There are no less than ten Observatories in Paris and about as many more in the different parts of France. There are two or three in Portugal, four in Spain, eight or ten in Italy, one in most of the large cities of Germany and Russia, several in Sweden and Denmark; and even Norway and Iceland are not without similar establishments. China and many of the nations of the East were even before the Europeans in their attention to these means of cultivating Astronomy, and in their encouragement of those persons who were disposed to make use of them. We are almost the only nation of any pretensions to learning and the arts, which has totally neglected to provide for this branch of knowledge. Amidst all our public seminaries and public societies, instituted for the promotion of useful science, we cannot boast of a single foundation for an Observatory in the United States, or in North America. It is believed that there is not one upon this continent,—which may be said to owe its discovery to the light that was thrown upon it from this source.

We depend upon Europe, not only for our knowledge of the heavens, but for our astronomical tables and books of navigation, for the means which we possess of determining the relative situation of places among ourselves, for whatever instruction and gratification we derive from the few astronomical observations which are made amongst us. We could not even calculate an almanac without help from abroad.

The Observatory at Greenwich so justly celebrated,—which is of such inestimable importance to the scientific world,—was built expressly for the purpose of aiding commerce by rendering navigation more safe and easy. This purpose has been most happily answered. The most valuable improvements have been made here in the means and methods of finding a ship's place at sea and of conducting her from one port to another. The lives of thousands, it may be presumed, have been saved by the information and directions that have been derived from the labours of this institution.

But the methods which are furnished to mariners are not yet perfect ;—there are many places, especially upon our coast, whose latitude and longitude are so uncertain as to mislead the most skilful. There are local points also in astronomy, as well as in navigation, that deserve attention. There are phenomena in the heavens, that are to be observed only at particular times and in particular parts of the earth. There are modifications and corrections of common nautical observations, that depend upon peculiarities of climate and situation, and which can be determined only by fixed instruments of the best construction. The scientific and commercial world have a right to expect from us that information which is to be obtained in no other place. Besides, it is time for us to begin to observe and examine for ourselves and to contribute something to the general stock.

The first Observatory of a country, if well endowed and well conducted, naturally takes precedence of all subsequent ones, and is acknowledged as a centre and common place of reference for astronomical and geographical observations. There are many things that give Cambridge a claim to this distinction. It has very great natural advantages for such an establishment. Its situation with respect to foreign Observatories, deduced from observations that have already been made, is better understood, and the library and philosophical apparatus of the College are better furnished, than those of any other place in the country. It may be added also, that the Corporation of the College have taken measures for improving these advantages. They have authorized a committee to make out an order for a few of the best instruments for an Observatory. But such instruments are very expensive. A single one, lately erected at Greenwich, cost more than five thousand dollars. It is pronounced to be the most perfect and the most magnificent instrument ever consecrated to astronomy. We wish to procure one after the same model and by the same artist, and that our other more essential instruments may be exact copies of those which have recently been made for this celebrated institution. We might thus avail ourselves of the science and skill of the old world, which have been the fruits of so many years' experience and research. But our means are too limited to admit of our putting this plan in execution. We not only want instruments to the amount of eight or ten thousand dollars, but we want a building that

will cost as much more, and we want a person to take charge of this establishment who shall devote himself entirely to the objects intended to be answered by it. We might then look at the stars with our own eyes ; we might then hope to do something for the advancement of science and for the honour of our country. To accomplish all this, we want nothing but money. We have a man amongst us most eminently qualified for the station,—a profound astronomer, who is already considerably accustomed to the business of observing, much attached to the College, highly respected and beloved by all his acquaintance,—and who has translated the most complete and the most difficult work which has hitherto appeared on the subject of astronomy, illustrating it at the same time with copious notes, that will probably render it accessible to a hundred persons, where it is now accessible to one. This work, should the public be favoured with it, will make him better known, and we shall learn from foreign critics more justly to estimate his talents and attainments.

Cambridge, Nov. 1818.



Professor Ebeling's Library.

[The following are the proceedings of the Corporation of Harvard College, relative to the donation recently made to the University of this valuable library. We subjoin a brief account of the collection.]

Harvard University, Cambridge.

At a meeting of the President and Fellows of Harvard College, June 26, 1818 :—

The President laid before the board a letter from the Hon. Israel Thorndike of Boston, of the following tenor, viz.

‘ Dear Sir—Having been informed, some time since, that the late Professor Ebeling of Hamburg had left a very extensive and valuable library containing many volumes, maps, and charts, peculiarly adapted to be useful in the United States, I determined upon purchasing it, provided it could be obtained at a fair price, considering its intrinsic worth, and to present it to the University at Cambridge as a mark of the great esteem I feel for those who compose the government of that seminary, and of veneration for its great antiquity and usefulness. You will perceive by the enclosed let-